

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 65, No. 17

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Home of Air Dominance Training*

April 28, 2006

In brief



Tynman Triathlon Saturday

Tyndall AFB will be hosting the Tynman Triathlon Saturday. Base drivers are asked to be cognizant of racers and volunteers on and all around the base and within the housing areas 8–11 a.m. For further information, please contact Master Sgt. Kenneth Young at the Fitness Center, 283-2631.

Firefighter challenge

Teams interested in Tyndall's 2006 Firefighters Combat Challenge during Safety Day May 26 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. should contact Michael Newbury at 283-4777 or Master Sgt. Edward Best at 283-4231.

Challenges include a bunker/hydrant drill; bucket brigade; dummy carry; rescue maze; barrel competition and hose roll.

What's inside

New jet enhances Raptor maintenance training
... PAGE 4



Tyndall volunteers are recognized
... PAGE 6



1st Lt. Jon Quinlan

Future Force

Bradly Cessna, 5, son of Staff Sgt. Todd Cessna, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4, sits in the cockpit of a MH-60s Nighthawk helicopter during the 2006 Tyndall Open House held Saturday and Sunday. Approximately 55,000 people attended the show, which featured the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration Team, Army Golden Knights jump team, numerous static display aircraft and other civilian and military demonstration teams. To view more pictures, see Pages 10-11.

Base seeks best use of fuel depot

CAPT. J. ELAINE HUNNICUTT

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Real Property Agency's Enhanced Use Leasing team met with Bay County, Lynn Haven and Tyndall AFB officials in Panama City this week to determine the best use for land owned by Tyndall in Lynn Haven.

"We are working with the officials downtown to determine the best way to utilize this asset," said Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

"It is our responsibility as Airmen to be good stewards of the environment and make wise decisions about the future use of Air Force assets," said General Egginton. "We are working with the community to find a solution that will benefit both the community and the Air Force."

"Many of our military families live in that area, and our children attend Lynn Haven schools; the surrounding community is our home too," he said. "Whatever the land is used for will impact us as residents, so we do not take on this decision process lightly."

The property consists of 203 acres of waterfront real estate including 3.7 miles of railway extending out to Highways 231 and 77.

The land, owned by the Air Force, was formerly a fuel depot used by the Navy and Air Force. Over time the fuel depot was shut down, dismantled and is currently being cleaned up.

"We have an asset; we need to

● SEE FUEL PAGE 7



Chrissy Cuttita

Suiting up
Austin Steele, right, gears up with the help of Tech. Sgt. Sean Beasley, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron fire station chief. Austin was one of five young patients with special needs from the Shriners' Children's Hospital who had the opportunity to tour Tyndall facilities and experience life as an Airman April 21. The eighth-grader with spina bifida learned about fire-fighting when he sprayed the hose at a training aircraft in the squadron's fire pit and toured their facility.

ON THE STREET

**325th Medical Operations Squadron:
If you turned your TV off for a week, what would you do?**



"I would go to the lake and go wakeboarding"

TECH SGT. GARY FREEMAN
Psychiatry element NCO in charge



"Anything outdoors like camping or hiking."

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
BREE TANNER**
Pediatrics medical technician



"I'd go looking for fossils in the driveway or fly more."

CAPT. RICHARD GRECO
Family practice doctor



"I'd play board games with my children."

TECH. SGT. NICOLE VEST
Immunization medical technician

Identify this...



Can you identify this object?
If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The prize can be claimed at the Public Affairs office. The winner for the April 21 "Identify This" is Cindy Hobbs, 601st Combat Operations Squadron security office. She correctly guessed it was the antenna on the Tyndall beach boardwalk. Come claim your prize!

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton325th FW commander
Maj. Susan A. Romanochief, 325th FW public affairs
Ms. Chrissy Cuttitachief, internal information
2nd Lt. Will Powelldeputy chief, internal information
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojekeditor
2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrellstaff writer
Senior Airman Stacey Haga.....staff writer

The *Gulf Defender* is published by the *Panama City News Herald*, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Gulf Defender* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or the *Panama City News Herald* of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted. The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*. For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Commander thanks base for open house support

BRIG. GEN. JACK B. EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

I want to begin by thanking everyone for making this year's Gulf Coast Salute an overwhelming success. Except for a little rain Saturday morning, the weather was absolutely perfect for all the activities, and more than 50,000 people came to see what is unique to Tyndall, the Air Force and our sister services.

Of course, highlights included the F-22A flyby, F-15E demonstration team, the Heritage flight, Sky Soldiers, Golden Knights, Patty Wagstaff and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, who told me this was the best experience they've had in five years. When I attended a performers' briefing, I was overwhelmed with pride when P-51 pilot, retired Brig. Gen. Regis Urschler, praised our efforts, and all the performers rose to give Team Tyndall a standing ovation that day.

Also, our younger audience seemed to have great fun with all of the activities that were available to

them and I heard rave reviews from everyone I met. As I walked around the flightline both days, I could tell everyone was enjoying themselves immensely. Open houses are important in that they allow the public to get to know us a little better and see some of what we do on a daily basis, but this year's event was even more significant since we were able to showcase not only our mission, and that of the Air Force, but that of our sister services as well. I know all of Team Tyndall worked very hard to make sure the airshow was not only successful, but also safe.

Maj. "Wrench" Allen, this year's chairman, and the rest of his staff did a magnificent job lining up aerial demonstrations, static displays and activities for our guests. In talking with the major, I agreed wholeheartedly with him when he said the tireless dedication of more than 200 volunteers from every organization on base was paramount to the success of this monumental endeavor. From the hospitality folks to the ramp boss to the fire department to the

Airmen maintaining sanitation on the ramp – every member of Team Tyndall who participated personified the "can do" attitude that makes us the greatest air and space force the world has ever seen.

A job well done also goes out to our security forces and other air show support personnel who endured warm weather and long days to ensure all enjoyed themselves. It takes a team effort to put on an event of this magnitude and it was extremely well done. I'd also like to thank the participants of the FOD walk on Monday, making sure the flightline is free of any stray objects such as trash or any other foreign objects that can damage an aircraft.

Thank you again, for giving your time and effort in making this one of the most well-attended and enjoyable air shows to date. The Gulf Coast and Bay County communities appreciate your efforts and the open house would not have been as successful without all of your hard work and dedication. You make me so very proud. Now, have a fun and safe weekend!

Be an Airman first, then Air Force Specialty Code duty

MASTER SGT. CARIANNE MELNICK
325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant

In 2002, I had the honor of attending my son's graduation from boot camp at Fort Knox, Ky. I felt that the Army laid out the red carpet for me when they allowed me the privilege of visiting their barracks and talking to their drill sergeants. This was not offered to every parent, but I was given this privilege since I was active duty and a senior NCO.

Everywhere I turned I heard two recurring terms: "battle buddy" and Soldier. I quickly learned their "battle buddy" term was similar to our Wingman concept. However, it was so much more deep-rooted, just

as their term Soldier was. No matter who they spoke about or what they briefed, it was "Soldier" this or "battle buddy" that. Their use of battle buddy and Soldier intrigued me. Their culture revolves around being a Soldier first. It isn't just a term, but a deep felt culture they instilled throughout Army ranks and specialties.

How do most individuals in the Air Force respond to "What do you do

for a living?" I'm a cop, a loadmaster or a dental technician are very familiar answers. Although these specialties are important to the Air Force mission, they aren't our number-one priority; we are Airmen first.

As Airmen, it is imperative that we develop an "Airmen first" culture so that we can cultivate Airmen and successfully prepare them to be war fighters for the members of our nation, defending it side by side with

each other and our sister services.

To begin the transition from specialty first to Airmen first, we need to look at the nature of culture and why it's important to us.

To cultivate your troops is to grow them. The nature of culture is usually acquired through enculturation, the process through which an older generation induces and compels a younger generation to reproduce the established lifestyle; consequently, culture is embedded in a person's way of life. As Air Force members, there is always someone junior in rank to you, therefore it is everyone's responsibility to ensure troops are Airmen

“If we are Airmen first, cultivated with the mindset of one team, one concept and one mission, our contributions will be stronger.”

MASTER SGT. CARIANNE MELNICK
325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant

● SEE AIRMAN PAGE 14

Action Line

Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response

or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515

MEO	283-2739
MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

New jet aids maintenance training

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When this F-22A Raptor touched down at Tyndall April 19, it represented its final flight. That’s because it is going to be the new Ground Instructional Trainer Aircraft, solely dedicated to be the airframe aircraft maintenance technical school students will learn specific tasks on.

“Previously, the 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit was required to provide an operational F-22A for maintenance training,” said Capt. William Cooke, 325th Maintenance Operations Squadron maintenance training flight commander. “Access to several components required removal of panels that must be replaced through a lengthy recovery process, which led to significant aircraft downtime. This GITA will significantly reduce those requirements and allow more aircraft availability for the 43rd to accomplish flight training while allowing maintenance training simultaneously.”

Captain Cooke explained that Tyndall got the aircraft since it was identified to be at the end of its service life with the test facility and was chosen as a candidate for permanent grounding as a training aircraft. Only one

other Raptor in the world exists for this purpose. There are however, several tasks to be accomplished before the trainer can be used by students. Since the aircraft had been previously used as a test aircraft, a lot of equipment, to include the engines, needs to be removed. “A great number of sensors, connectors and wire bundles must be safely identified and removed in order

to configure this aircraft to meet our training requirements,” he said. “Since this is not a ‘production’ aircraft, there are several differences between it and other Raptors on our ramp, and it will take some time to identify what differences may hinder training or require modification to safely provide the best training asset possible.”

According to the captain, tasks students will be trained on include turning on the auxiliary power unit, intake, exhaust and weapons load train-

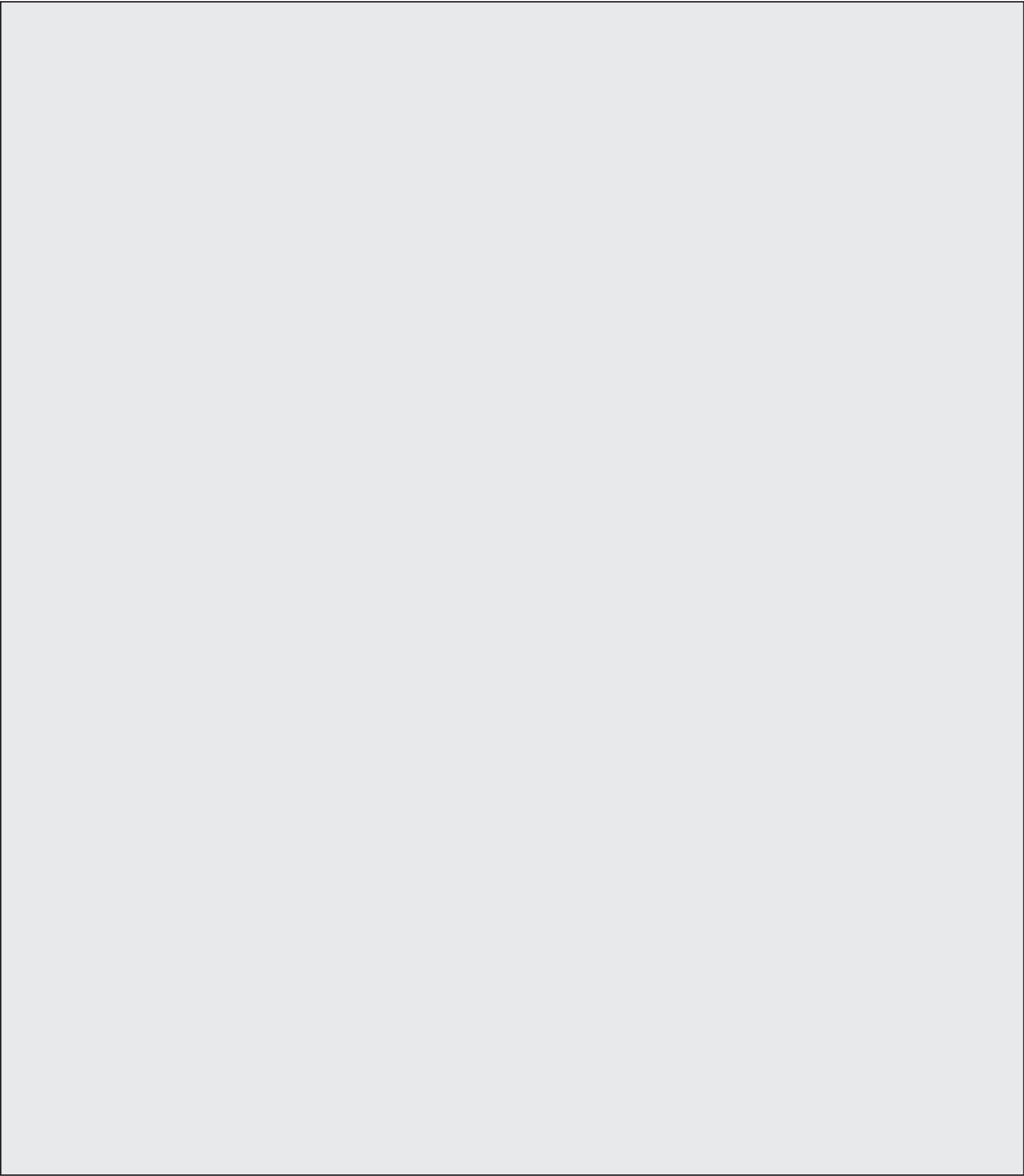
ing and other common aircraft maintenance tasks such as tactical aircraft maintenance basic and advanced courses and emergency egress.

“After all, the best maintainers in the world deserve the best equipment on which to train, so that’s what the 325th is going to safely provide them,” said Captain Cooke.



1st Lt. Jon Quinlan

A new F-22A Ground Instructional Trainer Aircraft arrives at the 43rd Fighter Squadron April 19.



Volunteers recognized at base ceremony Tuesday

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Many Tyndall volunteers were recognized for their efforts on and off base at the annual ceremony Tuesday, but three were given top 325th Fighter Wing honors.

Capt. Brad Funk, 1st Fighter Squadron A-flight commander, won volunteer of the year, military category. Lawrence Avery, who won volunteer of the year, civilian category, manages approximately 38 American Red Cross volunteers at the 325th Medical Group pharmacy. Joseph Bradham, winner of the volunteer excellence award, is one of those volunteers.

“You will rarely find a volunteer seeking recognition but National Volunteer Week allows the community to say a collective thank you,” said Catherine Tarrant, Family Support Center community readiness consultant. “Volunteers give freely of their gifts, time and talents to make the community a better place. National Volunteer Week, held Sunday through today, is an opportunity for Team Tyndall to show their appreciation to our volunteers for their unselfish dedication and service to our community.”

The theme for National Volunteer Week is “Inspire by Example” because



Chrissy Cuttita

Capt. Brad Funk briefs a tour group on how pilots survive in the event of an emergency by demonstrating the life-saving equipment they use.



Lisa Norman

Joseph Bradham receives the annual Volunteer Excellence award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, during a volunteer recognition ceremony Tuesday at the Enlisted Club.

they inspire us and our leaders to give our best wherever we may serve, she said.

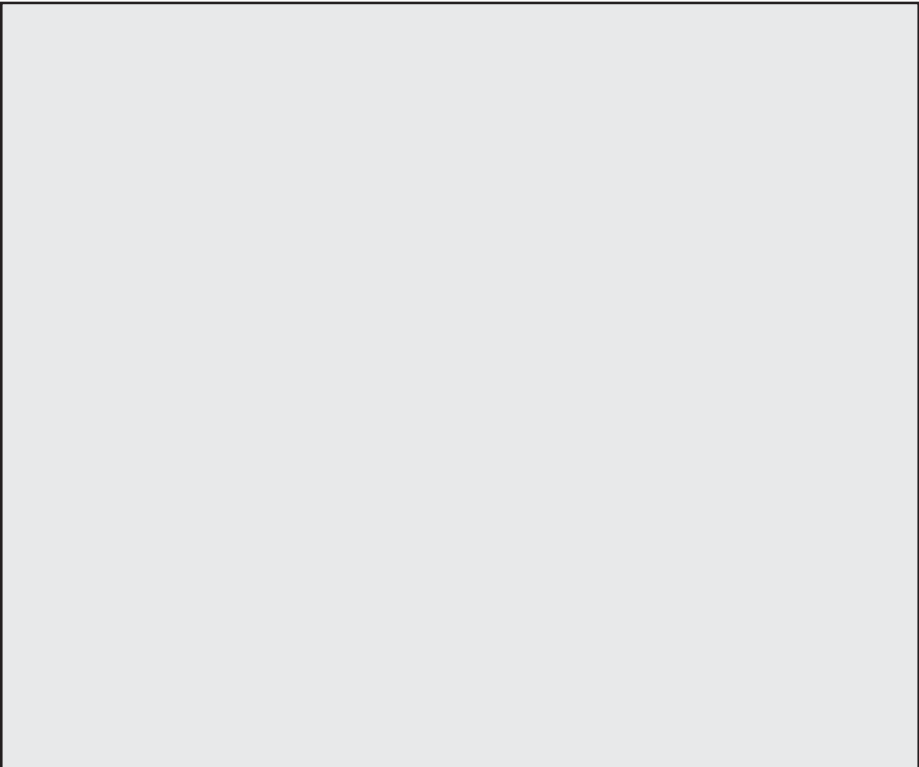
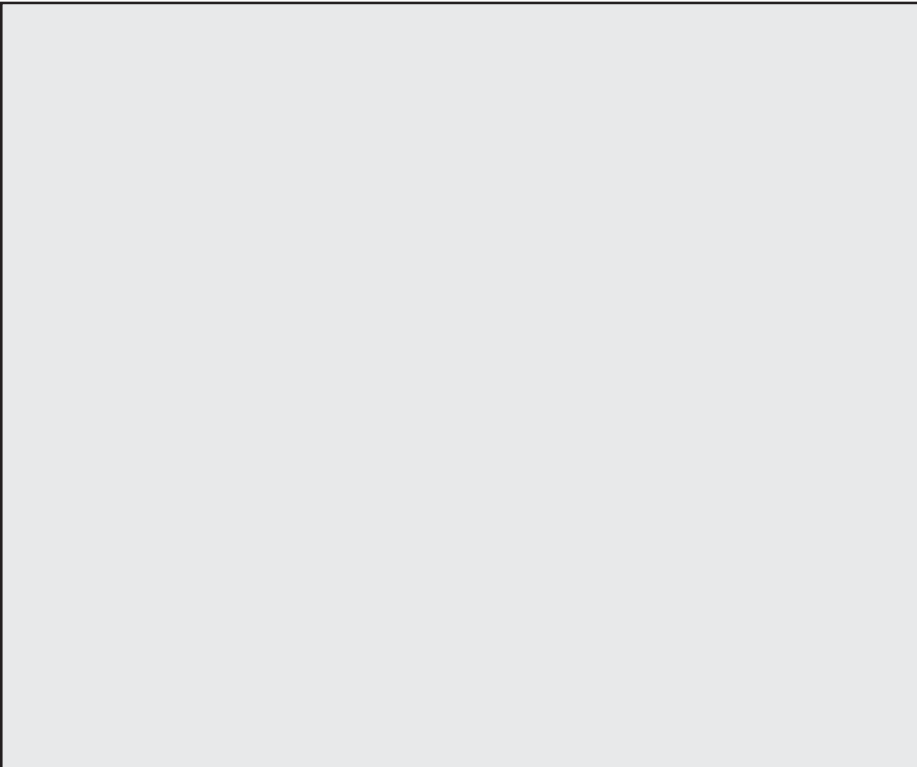
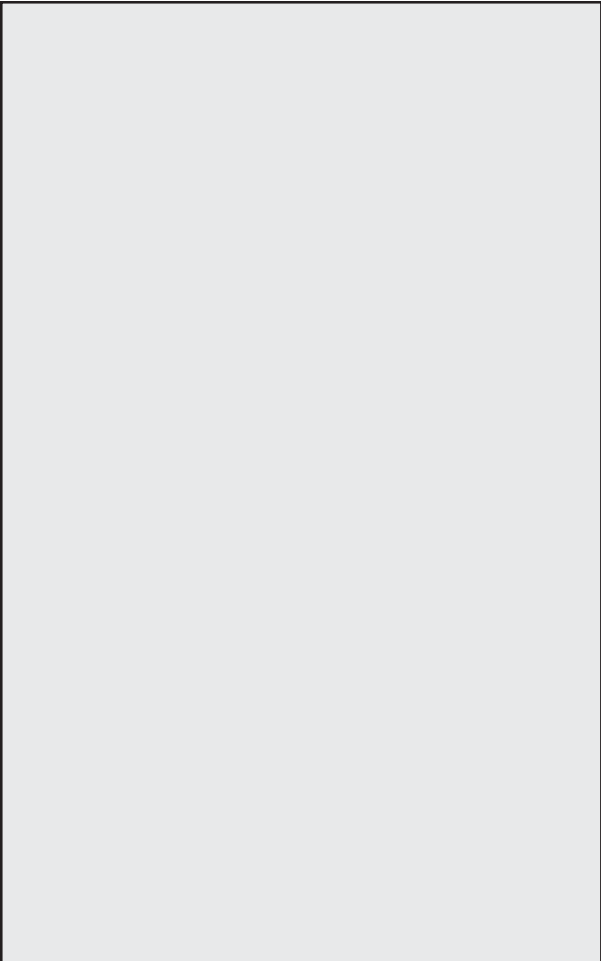
To qualify for awards, nominees had their volunteer hours reported to the Family Support Center throughout the year and a nomination package submitted to the center. Winners were chosen based on the quantity of hours they give outside their duty as a volunteer.

Captain Funk volunteered hundreds of hours in a variety of ways. He helps in the community educating youth on the Air Force, coaching sports teams, rebuilding houses and leading his church congregation in seminars and services. In addition, he spent more than 288 hours volunteering for hurricane relief.

“He keeps his (volunteer) work to himself,” said Lt. Col. Bert Dreher, 1st Fighter Squadron commander. “The only way I found out about his selflessness was when asking for data for awards and officer performance reports.”

Captain Funk is like many volunteers who give whatever free time they have left without seeking reward.

“On his own time, not affiliated with any Air Force effort, he went into the disaster area twice to help folks rebuild their homes, and never once asking to have his leave time returned to him for his efforts,” said Colonel Dreher.



Donna Dickerson

Check please!
Recipients of the Officers' Spouses' Club Scholarship Fund pose with the \$14,000 check the club donated to them for educational expenses. The money came from the club's Thrift Shop and Silent Auction. Spouse winners are Ronnica Armour and Amy Byrd. High school senior winners are Angela Anderson, Sylvia Cooper, Kyle Cromwell, Cassandra Dickerson, Lauren Hampton, Angelica Jenkins, Jerame King, Anthony Luiken, Kelly Knox, Michael Meaux, Kaitlin Murphy, Kelley Rafferty, Kirsten Richter, Luke Seaman and Dinah Warren.


● **FROM FUEL PAGE 1**
determine how to best use it,” said Brian Stahl, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy base civil engineer.
The reuse of this property is being looked at by the Air Force Real Property Agency as part of the EUL process to ensure a wise decision is made by the Air Force.
“The EUL process is a relatively new concept in the Air Force that involves extensive planning efforts and complex real estate transactions,” said Mr. Stahl. “To ensure this effort runs smoothly, Air Force level experts have been brought in to oversee the initiative. This is what they do – the Air Force has other

properties like this around the globe, and it is the Air Force Real Property Agency’s responsibility to make sure educated, informed decisions are made.”
The first phase of the EUL process is a concept opportunity study to determine feasible uses for the land based on given limitations. As part of the first phase, the EUL team is meeting with civic leaders to brainstorm and gather their inputs.
In the next phase, scheduled to begin this summer, the Air Force Real Property Agency will develop a concept plan for the site based on a combination of Air Force needs and local community desires.



Checkertail Salute

Airman 1st Class Katherine Sire



Steve Wallace

Airman Sire receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Sire, 325th Maintenance Squadron. She recovered \$619,000 worth of munitions and transported them from Keesler AFB, Miss., to Tyndall for storage and disposition after Hurricane Katrina.

Duty title: Munitions storage crew member
Time in service: One year, 10 months
Hometown: Modesto, Calif.
Hobbies: Watching sports
Favorite book: "The Giver" by Lois Lowry
Favorite movie: "Friends" on DVD
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The beach
Goals: Get a master's degree in architecture
Proudest moment in the military: Receiving this award

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

AFCESA wins chief award

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL A. WARD
Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency

The Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency recently received the Commander-In-Chief's Team Recognition Award for Installation Excellence.

The agency received the award for its management of the Air Force Contract Augmentation Program. AFCAP, as it is commonly known, is an emergency response contracting tool that allows federal agencies to avoid the normal, but slower, acquisition process and quickly provide contracted support during contingency operations, humanitarian operations and operations other than war.

The contract was used dozens of times last year, most notably to support relief and recovery operations after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It was also used to support humanitarian efforts after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 and the earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005. AFCAP is currently being used to support the rebuilding of Iraq and in relief efforts in the Horn of Africa.

AFCAP originated in 1997 as the Air Force was completing a drawdown of

its active duty force. It was developed as a way to continue providing support during emergency operations.

"AFCAP is a force-multiplier. It allows the Air Force to use fewer military resources, but retain full civil engineer capability by contracting out some services," said Wayland Patterson, AFCAP project manager.

AFCAP began as a five-year, \$475 million program. It is now a 10-year, \$10 billion program. It is the largest contingency support contract ever awarded by the Air Force.

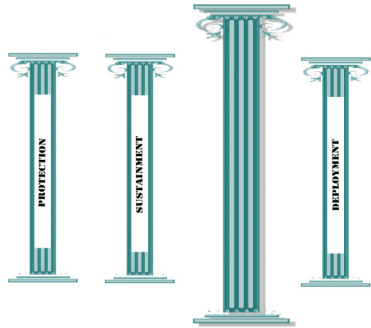
Capabilities provided by the contract are generally aligned with Air Force combat support and combat service support such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, air conditioning, food service, lodging management, laundry plant operation, fire protection emergency management, professional engineering and project and program management.

(Note: Capt. Donna Barber, now assigned to AFCESA, received the Commander-In-Chief's Individual Award primarily for her role as chief of maintenance engineering while assigned to Keesler AFB, Miss., last year.)

Remember
Your
Wingman



FORCE TRAINING



ACS warriors awarded four times for spirit

2ND LT. AMANDA FERRELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Winning “Warrior Class of the Month” four times out of a potential nine was unprecedented at the 325th Air Control Squadron until Class 09 won the honor again in April.

“Our greatest accomplishment as a class would have to be winning Warrior Class of the Month four times out of the nine months we were here,” said 2nd Lt. Brandon Handy, 325th ACS air battle manager student and class leader. “I like to think that we gave a genuine contribution to the squadron, base and local community. Everyone continually pooled their talents in an effort to help those around us. I’m very proud of my classmates and our accomplishments as a whole.”

The Warrior of the Month Award is given to the class that displays values of teamwork and dedication to training. “Students (in my class) help each other out,” said 2nd Lt. Juliana Bruns, 325th ACS ABM student. “The areas I’m weak in, others are not, and by helping one another the class benefits as a whole. One motivated student can stimulate others to do more work and strive for their best.”

Repeatedly winning the award built momentum and motivated the class to excel further in the course both academically and in simulator missions. “We really came together as a team

and exceeded all expectations as a student class,” said 2nd Lt. Benjamin Reese, 325th ACS ABM student, who will be going to Fairchild AFB, Wash., for survival training in May. “Our class set the standard for all classes in the ACS and we can back that up with (our awards).”

“We pulled together from the start to make sure no one was left out or behind,” said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ritsema, 325th ACS ABM student. “I think that’s reflected in our performance as a class both in the schoolhouse and in the community.”

“Being a part of a good team mission and having a peer comment on how well everyone worked together brings a greater sense of accomplishment (than individual success), and leaves you feeling that you can work through any challenges that come your way,” Lieutenant Ritsema said.

After nine months of intense training, students from class 09 will be departing for survival training. And many have plans to take time off to visit friends and family before reporting to their first operational assignments.

“I will have a few weeks before I move and during that time I’ll work on my private pilot’s license and take a trip to Washington, D.C.,” said Lieutenant Reese. “My follow-on assign-

ment will be at Robins AFB, Ga., to fly on the Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System where I’ll be preparing for a deployment to Iraq.”

The ABM students may be award-winning trainees, but they admit that the learning and hard work doesn’t end once they graduate.

“I’m fascinated with fighter tactics,” said Lieutenant Bruns. “Persistence is the key (to air battle management). The more you practice, the more you learn and improve your skills.”

“Tyndall has been a phenomenal assignment for learning the basics,” said Lieutenant Ritsema. “And my family will miss all the relationships we’ve built with other students, instructors and their families here at the ACS.”

The students of class 09 have left their mark on ABM training here and will take the knowledge they’ve gained with them to operational squadrons throughout the Air Force. Looking back on the experience, however, their success will continue to revolve around the teamwork and dedication that not only famed them the four-time “Warrior Class of the Month,” but won them close friendships as well.

“Without my classmates I wouldn’t (have been) able to complete this course,” Lieutenant Bruns said. “I owe them a lot.”

Training Spotlight

What regulations will you be responsible for as an air traffic controller?

“We learn general military and civilian regulations as well as those that cover the specific air-space we are assigned to.”



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
BRANDON BURNS

325th Operations Support Squadron
air traffic control apprentice

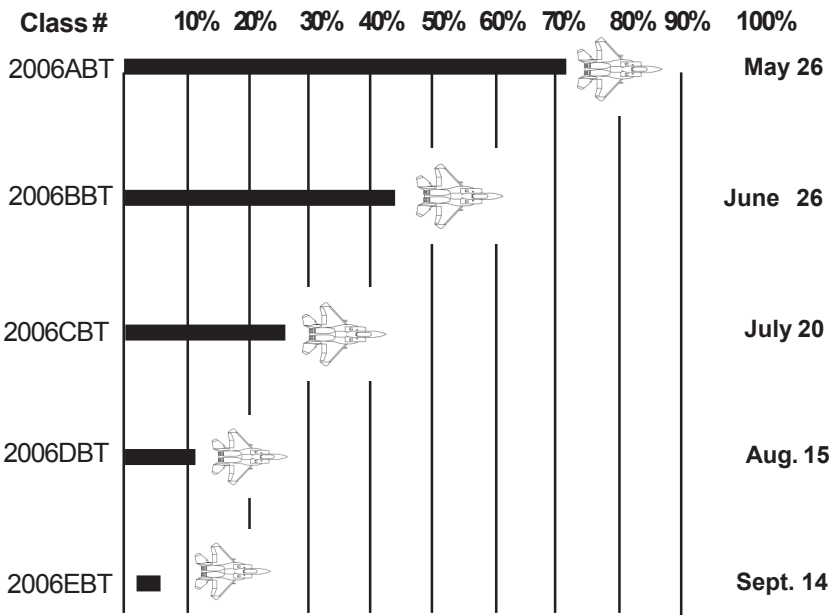


2nd Lt. Amanda Ferrell

Closer Look

Airmen Dean Bloomberg and Jason Hill, 372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4 mission ready airmen, inspect a magnetic engine chip detector as Staff Sgt. Fred Frazier, 372nd TRS/ Det. 4 instructor, explains the components and maintenance requirements for the part.

F-15 Eagle B-Course progress chart



‘Thunder Over the Gulf’ attracts



Above: A heritage flight, consisting of an F-15E Strike Eagle, F-86 Sabre, QF-4 Phantom II and A-10 Thunderbolt II, fly over the Tyndall Open House. Right: The Red Eagles wow the crowd with smoke and highly modified aerobatics aircraft during their performance at the show Saturday and Sunday.



The Neal Darnell Flash Fire Jet Truck rockets down the runway during the show.

Staff Sgt. Alan Arcand, 372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4, and his son, Dylan, watch performances by military and civilian demonstration teams at the Tyndall Open House Saturday.

55,000 viewers



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

Maj. Jeremy Durtschi, 43rd Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, and his 3-year-old daughter, Addison, ride together in miniature P-51 Mustang April 21 during the Tyndall Open House practice performance.



Lisa Norman

The Golden Knights honor prisoners of war during their show.



Staff Sgt. Edward Gyokeres

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds Demonstration Team performs the famous mirror maneuver during the Tyndall Open House.

Gulf Guide

Briefs

Squadron change of command

The 1st Fighter Squadron change of command is 3:01 p.m. Wednesday at Hangar 1. The outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Bert Dreher and the incoming commander is Lt. Col. Tom Menker. For more information, contact Capt. Rodney Landsberg at 283-4327.

Tyndall blood drive

There will be a blood drive at the Community Activities Center Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact your unit representative or Leslie Richardson at 283-3634.

Tricare online registration

Tyndall's Family Practice is almost completely Web enabled with the Department of Defense's Tricare Online Internet medical portal. Beneficiaries can register for Tricare online at www.tricareonline.com or call Tricare customer service at 1-800-600-9332. Agents are available 24 hours a day to assist beneficiaries.

Contracting closure

The 325th Contracting Squadron will be closed 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 5. In case of an emergency, contact Master Sgt. Brian Strickler at 774-1152.

Tobacco cessation

Tobacco cessation classes will be Monday, May 8 and 15 at 3:30–5 p.m. at the Health and Wellness Center. Any active-duty member, dependent, retiree, or civilian can sign up for the classes. All three classes are required. Medication assistance is available for those who attend and complete all of the classes. Preregistration is required. For more information, call the HAWC at 283-3826.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link is 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 12 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. Heart Link is a fun-filled, fast-paced, information-packed, orientation that can benefit every Air Force spouse. The presenters include the 325th Fighter Wing commander; representatives from protocol; military personnel; finance; family support; Services; legal; health & wellness; family advocacy, the Chapel; and Tricare. There are games, skits, and prizes throughout the day.



1st Lt. Jon Quinlan

Walk the line

More than 150 Tyndall Airmen conduct a foreign object damage walk Monday here after the weekend air show. Unit FOD walks are conducted every day but base-wide FOD walks are conducted semi-annually to ensure the safety of all Airmen and aircraft.

Come and learn more about the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocols and available resources and services. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Family Support Center at 283-4205.

Gulf Coast Community College schedule

The Tyndall Center of Gulf Coast Community College will be closed 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5. The next placement test will be held 1 p.m. May 10.

OSC board chairperson position available

The Officers' Spouses' Club board is looking for chairpeople for the upcoming year. No experience is necessary, just a great attitude and the desire to work with a team. For more information, please contact LeAnne Daniel, ed.daniel@comcast.com or 230-0698.

Thrift Shop position available

The Thrift Shop manager position will be available by June. If you are interested in taking over this Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club paid position, please contact the current manager, Donna Dickerson, at 286-5484.

Thrift Shop hours

Consignments are 9:30–11:30 a.m. Wednesdays–Thursdays. The Thrift Shop is in Bldg. 743, across from the Post Office. Personnel with PCS orders may consign 80 items, of which 40 may be in-season clothing. They

can consign one time starting 60 days prior to departure to 60 days after arrival, by appointment. A copy of PCS orders is required. For more information, call 286-5888.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday–Friday in Bldg. 747. For more information, call 283-4913.

Copper Collar 5K run and one mile children's fun run

The Naval Diving & Salvage Training Center and Friends of St. Andrew's State Park will host both the Copper Collar 5K Run and one-mile youth fun run June 3 at St. Andrew's State Park. Registration and package pick up starts at 6:30 a.m. The youth run starts at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K starts at 8:15. A post-race social and awards ceremony will start after the runs at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 a person for 5K, \$5 for youth, \$60 a team, plus a \$5 registration fee. Register at www.active.com or visit www.wnt.cnet.navy.mil/ndstc/ to view and print application or contact james.comerford@navy.mil.

Exchange 2006 baby catalog

The new 2006 Exchange Baby Catalog is available at all main stores and online at aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com. Prices are valid through Sept. 30 for any authorized exchange customer. For information, call the Base Exchange at 283-2580.



Tyndall Chapel Schedule

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m.
Monday–Friday,
Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.,
Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m.,
Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m.,
Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

(For more information on other services in the local area, call the Chaplain's office at 283-2925.)

Sports

Softball fans with ‘itch’ can get relief

DARYL SHINES
Lady Tigers coach

Did you feel that bite?

I’m sure you did, because every year about this time the notorious softball bug bites athletes all over the country and especially here at Tyndall. There is no known cure for a bite from the softball bug ... there is only temporary relief from this harmless yet irritating bite. Grab your cleats from the closet and beat last year’s dirt off of them, put some oil on the mitt and shine up the “Freak” (that’s a bat if you didn’t know). The 2006 softball season is well under way and the Lady Tigers have embarked on yet another exciting season of softball in the Panhandle.

The team plays in a local league at the Oakland Terrace Softball Complex downtown located on the corner of 11th Street and Fortune Avenue. The Lady Tigers represent Tyndall AFB and play in tournaments all over the Florida Panhandle, Georgia and Alabama.

The ladies got off to a slow start but have been working hard and are coming together. The team’s winning percentage is back up to .667 and we are currently enjoying a eight-game winning streak. I invite everyone to come out to the ball park and watch our team play. You will enjoy yourself!

There is also a community partner helping the team this year by providing uniform shirts and some tournament entry fees. We are very happy there are community partners like them willing to help keep Tyndall varsity sports going.

So if you feel an itch, don’t worry! It’s only the softball bug! Come scratch that itch by watching some



Robin Schuster, Lady Tigers team player, throws the ball toward home base during a practice session April 20. The Tyndall softball team is part of the Panama City Softball League and regularly play games at Oakland Terrace Softball Complex.

exciting softball and cheer for the Lady Tigers as they fight for a championship. A schedule of upcoming games can be found on the Panama City Web site at cpcnotes.cityofpanamacity.com/oaklandterrace.nsf.

For more information about the team, contact Coach D at 282-4602 or daryl.shines@tyndall.af.mil.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT

Intramural Sports Standings

Soccer					
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
372 TRS	9	0	TEST	3	6
OSS	8	1	83 FWS	3	6
MDG	7	2	MSS	3	6
AMXS	5	4	COMM	2	7
ACS	5	4	53 WEG	1	8
MXS	3	5			

Volleyball					
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
MXS	11	1	OSS	6	6
CONR	9	1	372 TRS	5	6
AFCESA	9	1	CES	5	7
83 FWS	7	4	COMM	3	8
SEADS	8	5	CPTS	2	8
ACS	6	5	MSS	2	9
AFRL	6	6	ACS 2	0	12

Bowling					
Team	W	L	Team	W	L
601st 2	158	98	RED HORSE	132	124
1st AMU 2	157	99	CES	132	124
AMXS	156	100	1st AMU 1	127	129
IAM	156	100	CS 1	126	130
SFS	151	106	AMMO	120	136
MXS-Phase	148	108	NCOA	118	138
MSS 1	144	112	ACS 1	114	142
AFCESA	142	114	CONS	113	143
Test	142	114	83 FWS 2	112	144
1st AMU 3	139	117	ACS 2	110	146
MXS 1	138	118	MOS	107	149
601st 1	138	118	CS 2	104	152
MSS 2	136	120	53rd WEG	100	156
83 FWS 1	135	121	Med Gp	98	158
SVS	135	121	AAFES	90	166
OSS	134	122	1FS	76	180



Pulling victory

Margarita Cuevan, front, and Rachel Oakes, 325th Contracting Squadron's tug of war team, pull out a victory against the 325th Mission Support Squadron during the 325th Mission Support Group Sports Day Wednesday.

Date announced for service Marathon

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – The official USAF Marathon will be held at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, Sept. 16, along with a Sports and Fitness Expo on Sept. 14 and 15. Runners from all over the world are expected to participate, including two A-10 pilots – in honor of the A-10 aircraft which is this year’s tribute craft. The A-10 “Warthog” will be on static display for media. BearingPoint, a business and systems integration firm, has joined the USAF Marathon for the 6th year as the Presenting Sponsor.

This year’s festivities include a two day Sports & Fitness Exposition located in the Ervin J.

Nutter Center at Wright State University, gourmet pasta dinner, race day, awards ceremony and a post race festival beginning immediately after the first runner crosses the finish line. World renowned long distance runners Bill Rodgers and Alberto Salazar will sign autographs, conduct clinics, speak at the gourmet pasta dinner and participate in the races on Sept. 16.

“Wright-Patterson AFB is very excited to be hosting the 10th year of the official USAF Marathon,” said Molly Loudon, USAF Marathon director. “We are reaching out on a global level to all 50 states and abroad with a goal of 10,000 total run-

ners in all events. We are already on target with runners signing up early for extra savings online at www.usafmarathon.com. With the level of enthusiasm from the entire base and the participants, the 10th USAF Marathon will be the best event to date.”

The USAF Marathon website has training tips for all level of runners. Officials at Wright-Patterson have already been working to help runners be ready for the September race. A half marathon is scheduled June 10th, along with on-going running workshops sponsored by the base Health and Wellness Center for those with base access.

● **FROM AIRMAN PAGE 3**

first. No longer should we be a culture of maintainers, cops and cooks, but rather a unity of Airmen.

While stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Mote, Army Infantry Specialist came in contact with many Air Force personnel. During a recent conversation, he stated, "It was evident they identified with their specialty first, then their branch." Instead of unity, he saw division in our ranks.

As Air Force joint war fighters, we must stand strong amongst our sister services; as Airmen first we will. If we are Airmen first, cultivated with the mindset of one team, one concept and one mission, our contributions will be stronger. Our culture of identifying with our technical specialty was previ-

ously acceptable. Today, however, it no longer is. We are joint war fighters and as such we must maintain unity within our ranks, regardless of our specialty. Let me put it this way: Digging fox holes, escorting convoys, and demonstrating proficiency with combat skills were not previously thought of as an Airman's responsibility, but it is now. I urge you to get out the Airman's Manual and train yourself and other Airmen to be war fighters.

Earlier this year, I attended the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. During a senior leader panel there, Army Sgt. Major Charles Stanley, from Fort Lewis, Wash., was asked what senior leaders can do to prepare Airmen for deployments.

He responded, "You need to ensure your Airmen are proficient before sending them to war."

He wasn't referring to our technical specialties; but rather our proficiency as military members, Airmen and war fighters. Your troops will likely find themselves walking a security perimeter with a cop or a cook and they need to see each other as an Airman first and a fellow brother or sister in arms, he said.

This mindset begins with every one of us. Every one of us is personally responsible for the safety and well-being of every Airman within our control. We must operate as one: one military, one force, one Airman. Take this responsibility seriously and understand that Airmen's lives, as well as our nation's security, depend on it.

● **FROM VOLUNTEER PAGE 6**

Volunteers with this determination can be seen each time someone walks into the base pharmacy. At least one volunteer is always on shift. Volunteers typically spend four hours a week working customer service, dispersing and collecting prescriptions.

"It keeps us off the window so we can do our jobs," said Nick Kapoi, 325th MDG pharmacy technician. "We are low-manned most of the times. (With volunteers) we only go to the window when a consultation is needed."

Almost every pharmacy volunteer is over 70 years old with military experience, said Mr. Avery, who is one of three volunteers who also serve with their spouse.

Volunteers travel to Tyndall for the military connection and opportunity to interact with people, said Margaret Avery.



Chrissy Cuttita

Lawrence Avery inventories the supply at the satellite pharmacy, temporarily located in the 325th Medical Group clinic lobby.

"I've been volunteering since 1949, so it gets in your blood and you want to give back to the community," said Mr. Avery.

The Averys took over management of the American Red Cross volunteers after insufficient funds almost closed down pharmacy operations 10 years ago. They said all their volunteers are important and show up to work faithfully daily. Quarterly they nominate co-workers for the 325th MDG-level volunteer award based on the work ethic, attitude and helpfulness they give to the full-time and volunteer pharmacy staff.

This time they picked Mr. Bradham for the annual volunteer recognition ceremony.

Mr. Bradham's Volunteer Excellence Award is a lifetime award signed by the chief of staff of the Air Force and is comparable to a meritorious service medal, Mr. Avery said.

His nomination package was submitted by Naomi Woodruff, local American Red Cross Director of Armed Forces Emergency Services.

"Mr. Bradham has learned that the more one does for others, the better one feels about himself," she wrote.

In addition to Mr. Bradham's 15-years experience at the Tyndall pharmacy, he visits Panama City nursing homes, hospitals and patient homes and delivers food for Meals on Wheels. He spends up to six hours a week conversing with and providing support for bedridden or homebound individuals.

Each person behind the many awards that were given out at the base volunteer recognition ceremony had a story as great as the ones who received the top three awards, showing Tyndall's partnership with its community.

For more information on volunteer opportunities and awards, contact Ms. Tarrant at 283-4204.



Chrissy Cuttita

Rebecca Walker and Alex Newton color posters about the environment. The girls won the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Earth Day poster contest.

Youth win ‘Take care of Earth’ poster contest

CHRISSY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental flight helped second- and third-graders at Tyndall Elementary learn how to take care of the earth by providing a first-ever poster contest.

“I came up with the idea to get the school involved in celebrating National Earth Day because most students who attend Tyndall Elementary are military children,” said ChiQuita George, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental scientist.

Lessons from their teachers and participation in the contest during art class helped students understand the importance of taking care of the Earth, said Glenda Greier, Tyndall Elementary assistant principal.

One hundred fifteen entries were submitted. The winners for each grade, second and third, were judged on their creativity and ability to adhere to the theme “Taking Care of the Earth by Recycling.”

Alex Newton, second-grade student, designed a poster of a green Earth that said people should keep the Earth clean and beautiful.

Rebecca Walker, third-grade student,

drew a comic strip that demonstrated how to recycle.

“It encourages recycling on base and more personnel become involved,” said Ms. George. “Recycling helps the environment in two significant ways: preserves landfill space by minimizing solid waste disposal and redirects valuable material from our waste stream for reuse. Tyndall AFB’s recycling program is given the utmost importance because it is mandatory for all military person-



Courtesy photo

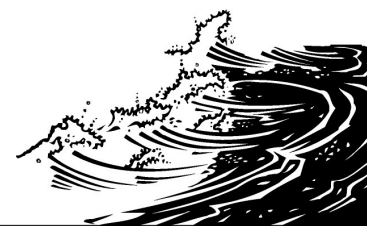
Alex Newton, Tyndall Elementary second-grade student, won the ‘Take care of the Earth’ poster contest by drawing and designing this poster.

nel and residents to comply.”

Winners were presented with a tote filled with stickers, activity books, stress balls, lollipops, vegetable and flower seeds and an F-22A Raptor lapel pin. Their posters will also be displayed in the environmental flight office here.



Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

☆ Log onto the NEW & IMPROVED Web site ☆

www.325thservices.com



**Fajita bar
5 - 7 p.m.**

**Cinco de Mayo
at the O'Club and E'Club
May 5
5 - 10 p.m.**

Drink specials
5-10 p.m.
\$1 and \$2



283-4357

Mother's Day Brunch
All ranks at the O'Club



May 14

Two Seatings 10:30 a.m. & 12:45 p.m.
Adults \$18.95
Children \$8.50
Children 4 and under free
Members receive \$2.00 discount

Menu:

carving station with	home fries
prime rib &	bacon & sausage
baked ham	biscuits
peel and eat shrimp	mashed potatoes
Belgian waffles	gravy
omelets(made to order)	assorted fruits
cream beef	dessert station
seasoned vegetables	

Reservations strongly recommended,
call 283-4357.

May Pizza Pub Special



**one large, one topping
pizza with pitcher
of beverage - \$10.50
after 5 p.m.**

For details, call the Pizza Pub 283-3222.



Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129, Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to 283-3225. Ads can also be sent in by e-mail to checkertailmarket@tyndall.af.mil.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)
(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes ☐ No ☐

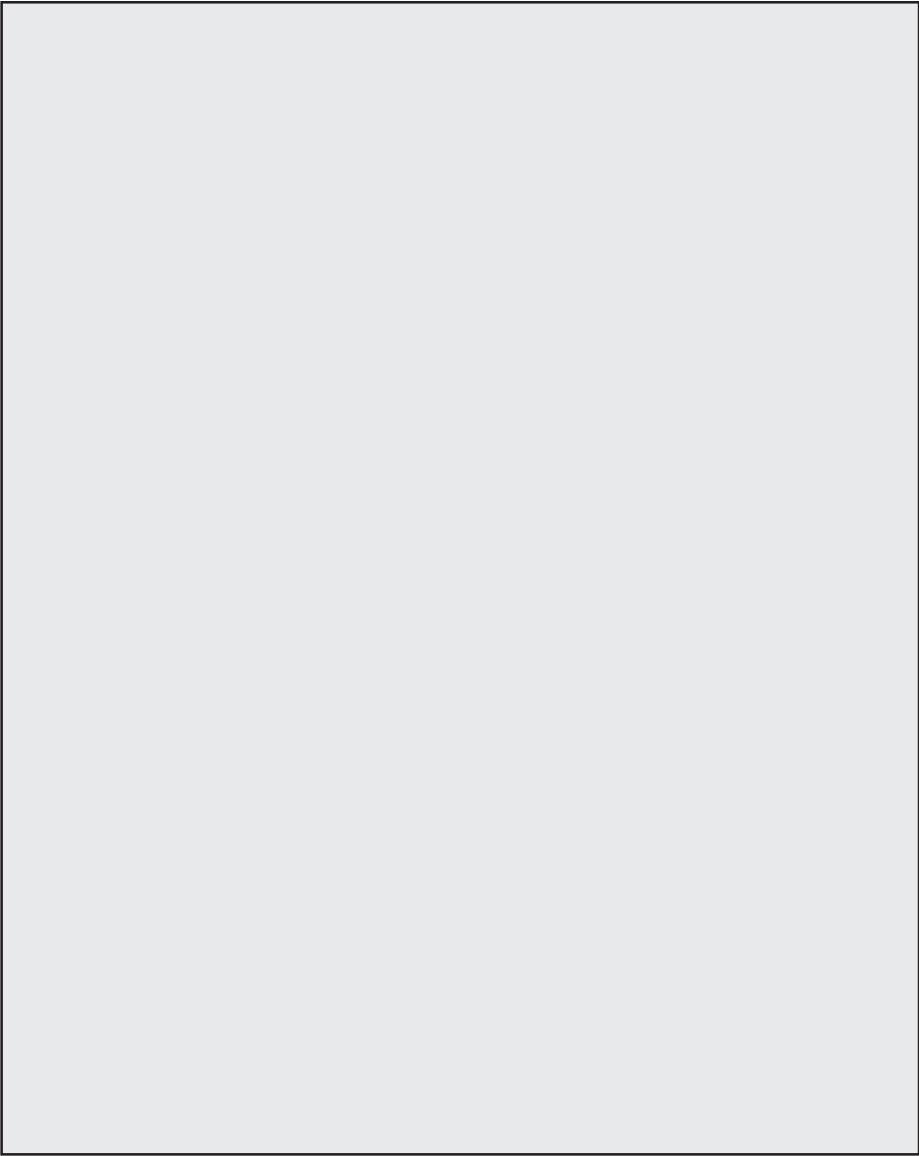
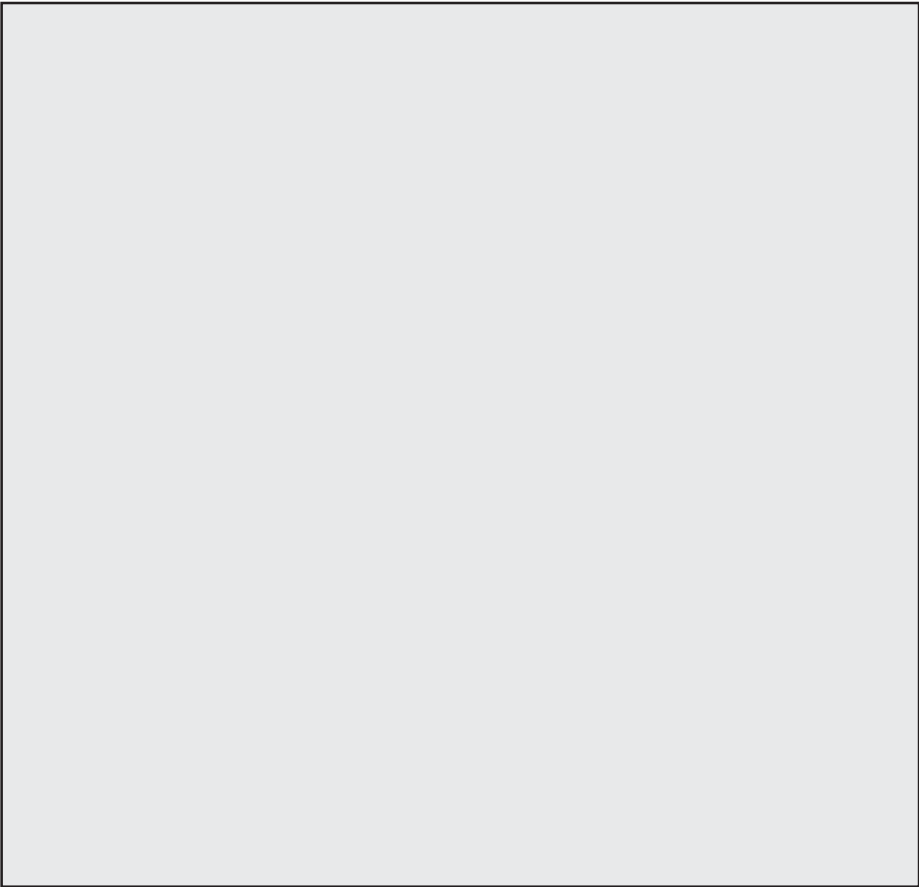
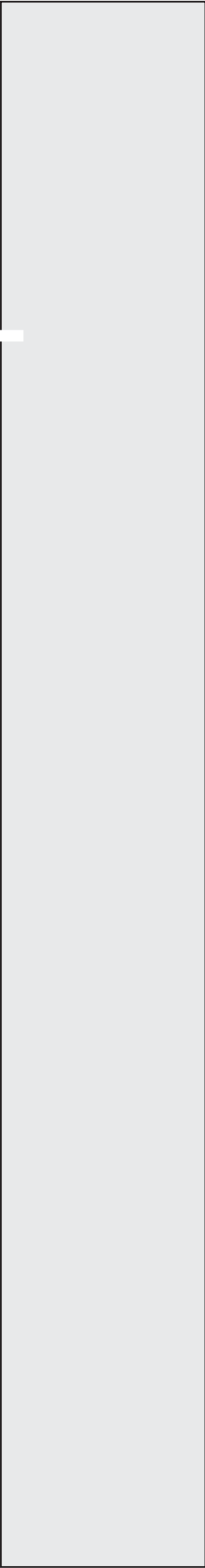
Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____



The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Travis Eckenroth, 81st Range Control Squadron weapons director technician.

A color photograph of a young man in a U.S. Air Force camouflage uniform, identified as Airman 1st Class Travis Eckenroth. He is smiling and standing in front of a stylized shield emblem that features a lightning bolt and a gear.